Nominee: Six Degrees Group

Nomination Colocation/Hosting Provider of the Year

What are your product's/ solution's key distinguishing features and/or USP?

Six Degrees Group was created to provide a converged technology infrastructure for data, cloud and Unified Communication solutions. Its data centres not only provide the flexible building blocks required for many of its hosted solutions, but also ensure secure colocation of critical network and IT equipment in top tier facilities.

Key features and benefits of Six Degrees Colocation include:

1)   The highest level of availability: power and bandwidth redundancy, in addition to the option for backup to a completely separate site. Six Degrees ensures that its customers' businesses are up and running all the time with a 100% Service Level Agreement.

2)   The ability to scale solutions to match a company's needs.

3)   The provision of complete geographic diversity for business continuity or disaster recovery needs through its two purpose-built data centres in the Midlands and one in London.

4)   Compliancy. Six Degrees is ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 9001 and PCI DSS approved. Facilities and on-site staff are fully equipped to deliver the highest standards of OFFICIAL (formerly IL2/IL3) security solutions.

5)   The provision of data protection and privacy through UK-based data centres.

6)   Direct connectivity to Six Degrees' Next Generation Network (NGN) – providing the ability to connect with over 700 carriers in any major UK data centre.

7)   Six Degrees' secure data centres have biometrics, CCTV camera, card access, gates, fencing, security systems and 27/7 security personnel to protect data and technology infrastructure.

8)   Investment in Six Degrees' technology and staff gives customers the freedom and peace of mind to get on with the business of running a business.

9)   Access to Six Degrees' Cloud Services, including Backup as a Service, Disaster Recovery as a Service, and Unified Communications to name a few.

What tangible impact has your product/solution had on the market and your customers?

The Birmingham Central and South Birmingham data centres provide customers with state-of-the-art facilities outside of London.

The investment from Six Degrees in these facilities has established the company as one of the leaders in the Midlands hosting marketplace, where each acts as a tech hub providing the full spectrum of Six Degrees' managed services.

With two flagship data centre facilities in the Midlands, Six Degrees Group can offer best-of-breed opportunities for disaster recovery and back up.

What are the major differentiators between your product/solution and those of your primary competitors?

The decision to invest in a third data centre facility in the heart of Birmingham towards the end of 2016 firmly established Six Degrees as one of the leading players in the Midlands hosting marketplace. Together with its South Birmingham data centre facility, Six Degrees has been able to offer best-of-breed opportunities for disaster recovery and backup and easily meet the increasing demands of business across the Midlands and the UK.

The 5,800m2 Birmingham Central facility is Uptime Institute Tier III Design Certified, meaning that its performance and reliability have been independently assessed. Each data hall delivers 1.5MW of capacity with industry-leading energy efficiency capabilities at a design PUE of 1.3, almost halving the power consumption for customers migrating from legacy facilities.

Please supply any supportive quotes and/or case study materials to demonstrate the value of this product/solution to your customers/partners.

Leo Lapworth, Web Manager, Foxtons, "The team at Six Degrees understands how important the website is to our business. They have helped us create a unique hosting platform that can support the website as Foxtons continues to meet the changing needs of the London property market."

Nathan Bishop, Group IT Services Director at Grafton Group said, "We have a long standing, strong and positive relationship with Six Degrees that has developed since we started using its data centre facilities. As our company has grown, our IT needs have become increasingly complex. Six Degrees provides us with a managed solution that will not only bring our systems up to date, but future-proof them. Using the Six Degrees infrastructure allows all of our businesses to stay connected 24/7, with no worries of overloading the systems or unwelcome downtime".

Greg Morley, Head of IT, United Living Group, a leader in provisioning affordable housing said; "Six Degrees has provided us with an integrated and sophisticated network that meets our everyday and future business demands. We are now one of the largest providers of affordable housing and sustainable solutions in the UK and downtime is simply not an option. With Six Degrees, we get peace of mind knowing that we have a resilient provider behind us. Six Degrees is a breath of fresh air."

Carsten Staehr, CEO of Cintra, a hosted HR and Payroll solution provider said; "Business continuity is always a key concern for us, as missing just one payslip could prove hugely detrimental to our business. It is therefore imperative that our IT systems are up and running as close to 100% of the time as possible. Whereas previously a system failure could mean it was many hours before we were back up and running, hosting Cintra iQ in the cloud with Six Degrees means we can be back up again within a significantly shorter time period in the unlikely event of a failure."

Why nominee should win

*   The addition of the Birmingham Central data centre facility has been an important investment, complementing Six Degrees' diverse footprint of the company's existing South Birmingham and London-based data centres.

*   Six Degrees has upheld its long-standing commitment to invest in the Midlands through the opening of a second data centre in the region, helping to cement Britain's second city as a future major digital hub.

*   All of the Six Degrees data centres are supported by its 24/7 Service Management Centre (SMC) and dedicated on-site facilities engineering teams.

*   Six Degrees' data centres are energy efficient, reducing business impact on the environment.